

New York April 16<sup>th</sup> 1825

My dear Torrey I had a delightful <sup>face</sup> a tête a tête with our  
Schweinitz for an hour & a half. He regretted exceedingly  
that he had not seen you. You would have been delighted  
with him. He is a capital fellow full of glee & conversa-  
tion - talks & smokes incessantly. I had prepared myself  
for a second interview with a thousand questions to ask  
him - but tho' I called on him twice unfortunately  
he had gone to dine out & visit & as ill luck  
would have it I was just in time next morning  
to see the steam Boat carry him on board his vessel  
He bro't all his canices in a large care & they are  
an elegant collection. As to any alteration or amendment  
he says he is entirely willing to submit it to us  
so that if you think proper to remould it in any  
shape, I think we are quite warranted in publishing  
it in that way. Cooper has the mss. & he will  
send it to you. He talks of coming up to see  
you next week or the week after, & I will send  
the canices by him if you please. Our steam  
Bt. Fanny, Douglass - will sail next week &  
stop at N. point & Mr. Allain thinks it would  
be best to retain the mineral case until she goes  
otherwise I sh. have sent it before. I assure  
you it was not wholly from forgetfulness that  
it was not attended to, tho' that sin may very



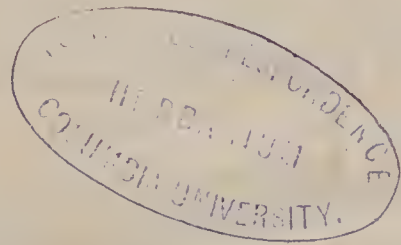
be laid at my door in very many instances - I will see that you get the little instruments you spoke about - The picker is done & the chisel ~~will~~ can soon be finished -

I have made a desperate attack upon the Fungi lately & hope to make a good account of them before next winter. I find a great difficulty in managing the microscope, but still practice will I think overcome the obstacle - I have in the space of the few hours I have devoted to it, detected some dozen of Link & Nees genera of the Pyrenozoides of which I had before no idea - Schweinitz assured me that in his opinion the Fungi are by far the easiest & most certain of detection in the whole range of Botany, & I wanted to get some instruction in that way from him but was too late - I shall particularly examine all his specimens - He very kindly offered me the use of his Books during his absence, & wrote to his family to send them to me particularly Nees' system wh. will be invaluable - I think this ground is untrodden, & that the little I can do will avail something, & I know you agree with me in believing it better to do a little well than much imperfectly - As to the Lichens I think I am tolerably au fait, as I certainly have the best collection next to Schwarz of American specimens & I can readily detect a non enumerated species - For the present, especially with my opportunities, it is scarcely worth while to go further - But in mycology what a world is there yet to be revealed by the magic power of the microscope - I am delighted even with the short excursion I have made in it -

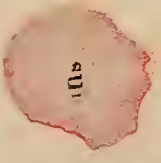
I send you a slip of proof sheet of your Synopsis - There is some error in the msp. & neither Cooper nor myself can exactly correct it - There are 2 spec. of same name, & one of the

descriptions ~~almost~~ precisely fit the other with the exception of  
one word -

I am interrupted for the present & must stop short  
believe me to be with the truest friendship  
Yours, A.M.





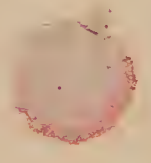


Dr. John Torrey  
 West Point  
 N. York



And, verily  
 may I say

A. M. B. C.  
 Apr. 10th A.D. 35  
 Re: Apr. 20th



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Recd. March 21/1.

Ans<sup>d</sup>. March 23LIBRARY  
NEW YORK  
BOTANICAL  
GARDEN.

Dearest Torrey

Thank you heartily for your kind letter - I receive it in the midst of business & tho. I had better drop a line immediately in relation to one part of your informat<sup>n</sup>. - I may be in N.Y. in April but I fear not before I have a catalogue of Coleopt<sup>a</sup> insects (about 350 species) prepared for the annals. If you want it I w<sup>ill</sup> send it immediately - They were gathered by myself while in N.Y., & during the last fall & winter have been studied & determined. There are perhaps 25 new species - Dr. Harris of Cambridge has compared all my doubtful species with his & Mr. Hentz also Say's collections, all of which he has I sh<sup>d</sup> like if you think it w<sup>ill</sup> do for the Lyceum to insert it in the annals - with respect to the Geological Survey I sh<sup>d</sup> much like to take the zoology if you tho<sup>t</sup> there was any chance to get it - as to qualifying for I presume I sh<sup>d</sup> be as much as most of the competitors. The last 12 mos. I have devoted to entomology & have made tolerable progress in it & as to drawing have rubbed up that not a little - I sh<sup>d</sup> like to show you some of my Butterflies & coleopt. of which I have figured 250 species - Dr. Harris who has seen them tells me (flattery?) that they are decidedly better than most of Say's. He never saw the 1/2 of what I have -

Now all this I say with the office in view wh. you mention, if you think there is any probability of such a thing I should like if you w<sup>ill</sup> take it in hand. & with the other good friends of mine in the Lyceum write in an application for to the governor. I think that we could by making a business of it get up a very creditable account of our natural riches - You w<sup>ill</sup> take the Botany - of course -

but I am obliged to stop - accept my sincerest & warmest regards

Alm. H. Kalm  
Nash<sup>ville</sup>. March 28  
1826

Given by A. M. VAIL.  
from the J. J. Crooke Collection  
MAR 4-1907

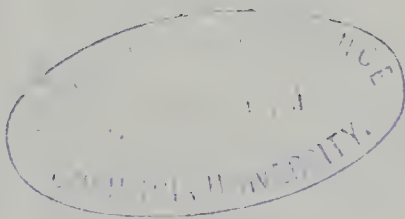
Dr. John Torrey

New York





Ans<sup>d</sup>. Apr. 16<sup>th</sup>.



Hartford April 8<sup>th</sup> 1836

An opp<sup>ty</sup> unexpectedly offering I send you my rough draft of the Catalogue of Coleoptera found in the neighborhood of Wye as you may perhaps think it advisable to offer it to the Lyceum Monday next. It is not fit in its present state for publication but if you are ready to go on with it I will send you a clean copy for the printer with a short preliminary flourish. You will see the no. is 300 - then an all that I have well determined - I have collected about 50 more species which I am uncertain yet about. I have also a catalogue of 60 or 70 Lepidoptera of Wye city & vicinity which I will send you, as it will do for the minutes of the Lyceum for the present, until the no. is enlarged or until the other classes are ready for a general catalogue of Insects of Wye. I wish you w<sup>d</sup> keep the present M<sup>s</sup>. in your possession until I send you a copy -

I shall state in the preface the fact of that the no. of Coleoptera is small compared with what might have been collected or drawn up by a more industrious or fortunate collector but there are probably the most commonly to be found, as they were taken during my botanical excursions a few seasons past -

I hope the other matter is still in a train - If anything occurs to alter the affair do write me, I write me too if the publishing committee want the M<sup>s</sup>. for the printer - that is if the Lyceum think it worth while to publish it

Excuse my brief epistle, remembrance to all our good fellows  
Yours sincerely - A. H.

Abraham M. Bay